

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFOR REPORTTOPIC Fall Maneuvers in ThuringiaEVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 50X1-HUMDATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 30 October 1953.REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

1. Troops and materiel unloaded at the Weimar freight station on 9 October 1953 included:

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at about 1 p.m., 20 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] and 7 trucks [REDACTED] which subsequently left [REDACTED] toward Berka;

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at about 3 p.m., 14 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] and trucks [REDACTED]

at about 5:30 p.m., 15 JS-1 or JS-2 tanks [REDACTED] and 1 armored scout car. The shipments included no troops, except for the crews of the vehicles. [REDACTED]

during the night on 8 October, numerous tanks passed through Buttelsstedt, proceeding toward Weimar, and allegedly coming from the Lossa training area. 2

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2. At about 4 p.m. on 9 October, 6 trucks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and towing 82-mm mortars, were seen leaving the Tannenberg Kaserne in Weimar, proceeding toward Bad Berka. 3

At about 4:15 p.m. on 9 October, trucks [REDACTED] towing 85-mm AA guns entered the Flak Kaserne, coming from the direction of Bad Berka. [REDACTED]

3. Troops and materiel unloaded at the Weimar freight station on 11 October included:

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at about 5 a.m., 24 track-laying vehicles [REDACTED] and 18 guns of about 150-mm [REDACTED]

at about 9 a.m., 35 to 40 trucks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and carrying pontoons and wooden bridge building equipment; and 3 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED]

at about 3 p.m., 22 track-laying vehicles towing 20 guns [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were 85-mm or 100-mm AT guns [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was identified.

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4. Shipments to Weimar and unloadings there discontinued during the night of 11 October. [] the maneuvers were to last until 24 October and were to extend all over Thuringia, including the Bavarian border line. 1 [] on 12 October, the barracks installations in Weimar were occupied only by guard details, as the troops participated in the maneuvers. Roads and woods in the maneuver area were heavily guarded. 3

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5. On 13 October, [] troop units stationed in Thuringia conducted maneuvers in the Weimar-Saalfeld-Jena-Stadtroda area.

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[] 2 VPs was to search the Saalfeld-Jena area for spies, the maneuver was to start on 13 October. VPs employed in the search wore civilian clothes. [] farmers were prohibited to work on their field and to leave their houses after nightfall. [] heavy vehicular traffic, mainly trucks, passing through Jena, coming from the direction of Weimar and proceeding toward Saalfeld. []

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[] Intensive flying activity was observed in the Jena-Saalfeld area. Prior to 14 October, numerous trucks loaded with boxes and baggage [] were daily seen en route toward Saalfeld. []

6. [] on 9 October, major troop units assembled for an exercise to be held in the Bad Berka-Blankenhain-Tannroda area and that about 100 tanks passed through Weimar, proceeding toward the autobahn south of Weimar. []

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[] these troops had come from the Eisenach-Weinbergen-Suhl area. On 10 October, a column of about 50 motor vehicles, including at least 10 T-34 tanks [] and motor vehicles []

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[] was seen on the autobahn, proceeding toward Magda la. On 10 October, all lanes in the woods between Bad Berka and Tannroda were blocked. Guns were dug-in in the fields, some of which had not yet been harvested. [] A column of 30 motorcycles, 2 armored scout cars [] 6 T-34 tanks, [] and about 20 trucks []

[] was seen en route toward Bad Berka. On 10 October, 14 T-34 tanks [] and 15 motor vehicles []

[] were seen in the woods between Bad Berka and Tannroda. 1 []

[] on 11 October, a tank unit was extrained at the Halle freight station; [] this unit had come from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne. On 12 and 13 October []

[] Only a few windows were lighted after dusk; the installation was only lightly occupied on 13 October. Trucks Nos [] were seen en route to and from the installation. 2

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1. Comment. [redacted] the 21st Gds Mecz Div and the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div participated in the maneuvers and, thus, [redacted] the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps had assembled in the Weimar area. [redacted] after major units assembled in the area south of Weimar and Jena prior to 12 October, the exercise, after 13 October, extended westward from the Saalfeld area as far as the Ohrdruf area. [redacted]

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2. Comment. Elements of the 21st Gds Mecz Div stationed in Lossa apparently transferred to the Weimar area by road, while elements stationed in Halle arrived by rail.

3. Comment. The information [redacted] confirms that the 20th Gds Mecz Div participated in the maneuvers.

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